

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 /066 W

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O P 300644Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 996 IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL OAS CAPITALS 022 PRIORITY

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USDEL 052

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OCON, OAS, CU

SUBJECT: SAN JOSE CONFERENCE - 16TH MFM

1. PLENARY QUICKLY APPROVED FREEDOM OF ACTION RESOLUTION AND TEXT OF FINAL ACT. AFTER FINAL ACT WAS SIGNED IN CLOSING SESSION, PERUVIAN FONMIN DE LA FLOR SPOKE ON BEHALF OF ALL DELEGATIONS. HE INTERPRETED ACTION BY ORGAN OF CONSULTATION AS SHOWING THAT REFORM OF RIO TREATY LAST WEEK WASN'T SIMPLY AN EPISODE BUT INDICATION OF RESPONSIVENESS TO CHANGE. RESOLUTION NOT ONLY GAVE EACH COUNTRY RIGHT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN SOVEREIGNTY TO DECIDE NATURE OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA; IT SIGNALED AN END TO COLD WAR IN THE HEMISPHERE. INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEMISPHERE REQUIRED THE UNITED EFFORTS OF ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES (INCLUDING CUBA), AND IT IS WELL THAT THE CUBAN CASE, WITH THE PROBLEMS AND PAST ERRORS IT REPRESENTS, IS BEHIND US.

2. FACIO WOUND UP THE SESSION WITH AN EXCELLENT, REFLECTIVE SPEECH. HE NOTED THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE PUT ON NOTICE IN MAY THAT SOME SORT OF ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN (RESPONDING TO CRITICISM REGARDING THE SHORT TIME BETWEEN THE CONVOCATION OF THE 16TH MFM AND THE MEETING ITSELF.) HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE FREEDOM

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OF ACTION FORMULA SATISFIED THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE STATES

PARTIES. THE RESOLUTION, HE SAID, DOES NOT PRETEND TO GIVE A GOOD CONDUCT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA; WE CONTINUE TO REPUDIATE EVERY ACT OF INTERVENTION, AND WILL DO SO IN THE FUTURE. BUT IT LEAVES EACH COUNTRY FREE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN SOVEREIGN INTEREEGS, TO DECIDE IF IT WISHES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS.

3. FACIO NOTED THAT "NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DECIDE HERE ABOUT THE REINTEGRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FIDEL CASTRO INTO THE OAS. NO ONE HAS SOUGHT THAT, AND THE AFFECTED GOVERNMENT HAD INDICATED, IN VARIOUS WAYS, THAT IT DOES NOT DESIRE TO RETURN AS A PART OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. NOR HAS THERE BEEN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE ON ANY GOVERNMENT PARTY TO THE RIO TREATY THE OBLIGATION OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT." HOWEVER, HE DID SUGGEST THAT THE PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION MIGHT MAKE IT EASIER TO RESUME CONTACTS WITH THE CUBANS, AND TO PERMIT REUNIFICATION OF EXILES WITH CUBANS WITHIN CUBA. MOREOVER, IN ELIMINATING THIS CAUSE OF MUCH IRRITATION, THE OAS WOULD BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON MORE FRUITFUL ISSUES SUCH A COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO03189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750262-0441
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975078/aaaaagwo.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAN JOSE CONFERENCE - 16TH MFM
TAGS: OCON, CU, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006